

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application. Claims 1-4, 9-12, 18-20, and 22-24 were pending in the application. Claims 3, 11, and 19 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 1, 9, and 18 have been amended.

The Examiner objected to claims 1, 9, 11, 18, and 19 for minor informalities. Accordingly, Applicants have amended claims 1, 9, 11, 18, and 19 to remove the informalities. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-2 and 9-10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Bu (US 6,809,541). The Examiner has rejected claims 4, 12, 18, 20 and 22-24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bu (US 6,809,541) in view of Rearick (US 6,762,614). However, the Examiner indicated claims 3, 11, and 19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 9, and 18 to include substantially all of the limitations of the claims 3, 11, and 19, respectively. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1, 9, and 18 as amended are patentable over Bu and Rearick and allowance of these claims is earnestly solicited. Claims 2, 4, 10, 12, 20, and 22-24 depend, directly or indirectly, from claims 1, 9, and 18. For at least the above reason, claims 2, 4, 10,

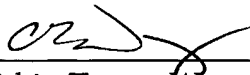
12, 20, and 22-24 are patentable over Bu and Rearick. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call C. Teresa Wong at (408) 720-8300.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a)(3), Applicants hereby request and authorize the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to (1) treat any concurrent or future reply that requires a petition for extension of time as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time and (2) charge all required fees, including extension of time fees and fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 and 1.17, to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
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